Procurement and Prices of Essential Commodities

1764. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appealed in the Financial Express dated the 7th June. 1993 captioned "Record procurement may help bring down prices of essential commodities";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a record procurement of wheat and rice during the current year as is given below: —

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat (April—March)	Rice (Oct.—Sept.)
1990-91	110.74	126.71
1991-92	77.52	102.47
1992-93	63.80	130.26 (upto 30-7-93)
1993-94	128.29 (upto 30-7-93)	..

Source: Ministry of Food.

The production of edible oils is also estimated to be higher during the current year as compared to the previous years: -—

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production
1989-90	45.66
1990-91	48.76
1991-92	49.66
1992-93	61.10 (estimated)

The higher procurement of rice and wheat are expected to have sobering effect on the prices. The distribution of these commodities through PDS directly helps the poor sections of the society as these are supplied at a cheaper rate than the market prices. The higher production of edible oils will help in keeping their prices under control

1765. *[Transferred to 13th August,* 1993.]

Property of Lodna Colliery at Dhanbad

1766. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that for the last several years, B.C.C.L. had been reporting that the plot No. 177 of Mouza Lodna, District Dhanbad did not belong to the Lodna Colliery and is thus not a part of the Nationalised coal company;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the area of the land, the structures built *on* that land and its value at the present market price;

(c) whether it is a fact that now it has been proved that the entire land of Plot No. 177 belongs to Lodna colliery and is thus a national property; and

(d) if so, the details of the action against such misreporting depriving thereby the nation of its assets for so long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The stand taken by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) has been that Shalimar Tar Plant was a unit of M/s Shalimar Tar Products Limited which were not nationalised as these did not come under the purview of Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1971. B.C.C.L. have since informed that Plot No. 177 of Mouza Lodna belongs to them but the structure standing thereon does not belong to B. C. C. L. The Unit is closed and is being guarded by the watch and ward of the owner. As such B.C.C.L. is not in a position to indicate the details of land, structure etc. B.C.C.L. has been advised to protect the interests of the Company as the owners of the land.

Shalimar Tar Products

1767. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Shalimar Tar Product has abandoned that factory and B.C.C.L has not taken that over and the whole property worth crores of rupees is being looted by the anti-social elements; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken to protect that national property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Shalimar Tar Plant has been a unit of M/s Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. Lodna Colliery, Lodna Coke Plant and Lodna Washeries were the properties of another company namely Lodna Colliery Company Ltd. Both the Units were, however, under the same Managing Agents namely M/s Turner Morrison and Company Ltd.

At the time of nationalisation in 1971, Lodna Colliery alongwith Lodna Coke Plant and Lodna Washery belonging to M/s Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd. was nationalised. The units of Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. were not nationalised as these did not come under the purview of Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1971.

In view of above position the question of B.C.C.L. taking over this plant does not arise.

Production of Coal

1768. SHRI MURALIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of coal, quality-wise during the last three years;

(b) what is the percentage of above production received from opencast mines and underground mines, separately;

(c) whether underground mining provides good quality coal; and

(d) if so, what efforts have been made by Government to obtain more production from underground mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Gradewise production of coal during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 is given below: —

(Million tonnes)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93 (Provisional)
Coking Coal			
Steel and Washery Grades	31.80	32.77	32.33
Other Grades	13.76	12.95	13.07
Non-Coking Coal			
Grades A, B, C and Assam Coal	67.37	72.14	75.37
Other Grades	98.80	111.42	117.46
TOTAL COAL	211.73	229.28	238.23